

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 11, 2000 with claims 1-27. Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, 23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0067884 (hereinafter "Abler"), rejected claims 5, 6, 8, 18, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abler, and indicated that claims 11-13 and 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

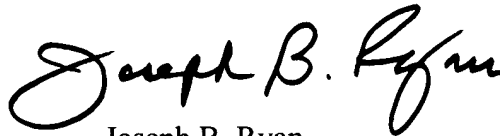
Applicants have rewritten dependent claims 11 and 24 in independent form. These claims and their respective associated dependent claim pairs 12, 13 and 25, 26 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 14 and 27 to clarify that the communications network comprises a local network and one or more additional networks coupled to the local network, and that the communication link for which the link type is automatically determined is external to the local network and part of the one or more additional networks. Further, the claims as amended indicate that the first device comprises a gateway coupled between the local network and the one or more additional networks, and that the automatic determination of link type is implemented at least in part within the gateway. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2 of the drawings, and the associated text at page 5, line 12, to page 6, line 20.

Unlike the claimed arrangements, the arrangements disclosed in Abler are implemented in a network interface card 200 of a workstation 205, and involve determining the protocol and speed associated with a local area network (LAN) to which the workstation 205 is connected, as illustrated in FIG. 2 of Abler. See Abler at, for example, page 2, paragraph [0021], and page 3, paragraph [0038].

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-27 as amended are in condition for allowance, and request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "R".

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Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517